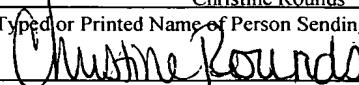


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Christine Rounds
Typed or Printed Name of Person Sending Paper or Fee

Signature

February 27, 2004
Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of
Hiroaki Hara, et al.) Examiner: Not Assigned
Title: AEROGEL AND METALLIC) Group Art Unit: 1754
COMPOSITES)
Serial No.: 10/695,214)
Filed on: October 28, 2003) (Docket No. 6872-01-1)

Hartford, Connecticut, February 27, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant(s) submits herewith Form PTO-1449 identifying patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Under 37 CFR 1.97 (b)

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application, or the date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.

Application Serial No. 10/695,214
Docket No. 6872-01-1

Under 37 CFR 1.97 (c)

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed *after* three months of the filing date of this national application, or the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application, or after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurred last, but *before* the mailing date of either a final action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first.

A certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below, or
 Fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (\$180.00).

Under 37 CFR 1.97(d)

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed *after* a final action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first, but before, or simultaneously with, the payment of the issue fee. Applicant hereby petitions for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, 37 CFR 1.97(d)(ii). A certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below.

A certification as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below, and
 Fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (\$180.00)

CERTIFICATION (37 CFR 1.97(e))

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement. A copy of the relevant search report is enclosed herewith.

No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Applicants respectfully request that any deficiencies in the fees be charged to Deposit Order Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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FORM PTO-1449
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT(S)

Docket No.: 6872-01-1

U.S. Serial No.: 10/695,214

Applicant: Hiroaki Hara, et al.

U.S. Filing Date: October 28, 2003

Title: AEROGEL AND METALLIC
COMPOSITES

Group Art Unit: 1754

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Examiner's Initials</u>	<u>Patent Number</u>	<u>Patent Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Class Subclass</u>
_____	U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0176277 A1	Pub. Date 09/18/2003	Suh, et al.	502/180

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Examiner's Initials</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Translation</u> <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

OTHER DOCUMENTS

<u>Examiner's Initials</u>	
_____	"Types of Fuel Cells", Fuel Cells 2000, pps. 1-5.
_____	_____

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER:

Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in
conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if
not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this
form with next communication to applicant(s).